

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of outputting a television program to a viewer, comprising:

receiving a highlight video segment, wherein the highlight video segment includes information associated with a particular subject, and wherein the highlight video segment is a summary of a detail video segment;

receiving ~~a~~ the detail video segment, wherein the detail video segment includes additional information associated with the particular subject;

storing in a memory the highlight and detail video segments;

generating an output script that is associated with the highlight and detail video segments;

accessing and outputting the highlight video segment in accordance with the script; and

receiving, during the output of the highlight video segment, a first command to output the additional information associated with the particular subject; and

accessing and outputting the detail video segment in response to the first command.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying to the viewer a menu that alerts the viewer that the additional information is available.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the script sequences the highlight video segment for output prior to the detail video segment.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, during the output of the detail video segment, a second command to skip to a subsequent video segment associated with the output script; and

accessing and outputting the subsequent video segment in response to the second command.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a payment for outputting the television program.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting a television program to a viewer, comprising:

storing in a memory a viewer preference, wherein the viewer preference identifies a subject of particular interest to the viewer;

receiving and storing in the memory highlight and detail video segments and a plurality of metadata tags, wherein each unique one of the video segments is associated with a unique one of the metadata tags, wherein each metadata tag includes at least one attribute that identifies a subject of the associated video segment, ~~and wherein~~ wherein the highlight and detail video segments are associated with particular subjects, and wherein the highlight video segment is a summary of the detail video segment;

identifying the metadata tags that include attributes associated with the preference;

using the identified metadata tags to generate an output program script;

accessing selected stored highlight and detail video segments in accordance with the output program script; and

displaying the accessed highlight and detail video segments.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the attribute is one of a time, a date, a title, a director, and an event.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the received highlight and detail video segments are part of at least one television program.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the received and stored highlight and detail video segments are accumulated over a span of time.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein receiving and storing the plurality of highlight and detail video segments and the plurality of metadata tags occurs in a secondary memory device.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of outputting selected portions of a television program to a viewer, comprising:

receiving at least a portion of a television program that includes a plurality of video segments, wherein each of a selected number of the video segments is associated with a unique highlight of the program, and wherein each unique highlight is a summary of the associated video segment;

storing the selected number of video segments;

receiving metadata tags, wherein each unique one of the selected number of video segments is associated with a unique one of the metadata tags, and wherein each metadata tag includes an attribute that identifies a subject of the associated video segment as a highlight of the program;

storing data associated with the metadata tags;

using the stored data to generate an output program script for outputting the selected number of video segments to the viewer;

accessing the selected number of video segments in accordance with the script; and

outputting the accessed video segments to the viewer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are received during reception of the program.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are received after reception of the program.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are received before reception of the program.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising receiving a command from the viewer to output highlights of the television program, and the accessing and outputting of the selected number of video segments occurs in response to the received command.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 17 wherein the command is received during broadcast of the program, and the selected number of video segments that are output are associated with only a portion of the program already broadcast.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of storing video information, comprising:
storing in a first memory a viewer preference, wherein the preference identifies a subject of particular interest to a viewer;

receiving a content segment of a program that includes a plurality of segments, ~~and~~;

receiving a metadata tag associated with the content segment, wherein the metadata tag includes [[an]] a subject attribute associated with a subject matter of the content segment and a highlight attribute that identifies an associated highlight video segment, and wherein the highlight video segment is a summary of the content segment;

comparing the subject attribute and the preference; and

storing in a second memory the content segment if the subject attribute is associated with the preference.

20. (Currently Amended) A video output system comprising:

a receiving unit;

a content manager coupled to the receiving unit;

a video cache memory coupled to the content manager, wherein the video cache memory includes a content memory portion and a metadata memory portion, wherein the content memory portion stores a content segment of a program that includes

a plurality of segments, wherein the metadata memory portion stores a metadata tag that comprises a highlight attribute that identifies an associated highlight video segment, and wherein the highlight video segment is a summary of the content segment;

a show flow engine coupled to the video cache memory; and

a rendering engine coupled to the show flow engine.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 further comprising a sensor/decoder unit coupled to the rendering engine, wherein the sensor/decoder unit receives coded signals from a transmitter activated by a viewer.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20 further comprising a viewer preference memory coupled to the content manager and to the show flow engine.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20 further comprising a gateway to a communications system coupled to the content manager.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the communications system is the Internet.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the receiving unit and the cache memory are parts of an audio-video tuner/disk combination.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the show flow engine generates a program script output used by the rendering engine.